

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Locate all abandoned wells near your homes and offices. Look closely around old homesteads or buildings used for livestock.
- Discuss location and dangers of abandoned wells with all family members and friends.
- Make sure all active and “standby” wells are in good repair and do not permit entry of contaminants.

The Kickapoo Environmental Office will assist you in closing your wells for no charge/cost in April or May 2013.

If you would like to keep a well open for future use, but the lid or foundation around the casing isn't adequate, we can assist with securing a lid or cover over the casing to keep out pesticides, animals and whatever else might flow or fall into the well casing. If you have a well and wish to have it closed, please call the Environmental Office at (785) 486 2601.



Kickapoo Environmental Office

1107 Goldfinch oad
Horton KS 66439

Phone: 785-486-2601 x-7

Fax: 785-486-2445

E-mail: viswaTej.Attili@ktik-nsn.gov

Kickapoo Environmental Office

ABANDONED WELLS ON KICKAPOO NATION



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A
BETTER COMMUNITY

Abandoned Wells

As of February 2013, an estimated 30 abandoned wells are present within the Kickapoo Nation. Once a well is abandoned, the location can be easily forgotten. Vegetation can grow around the above grade casings, obscuring their location. When property with an abandoned well is sold, existence of the well is often unknown to the new landowner. Old windmills or pump houses make some abandoned wells easy to spot. Others are hidden beneath grass, brush, or collapsed buildings.



Source of Pollution

An abandoned well can serve as a route for contaminating groundwater. Contaminated surface water, agricultural runoff and effluent from lagoon

systems can enter the groundwater through such wells and cause pollution of other wells.

Safety Hazards

When abandoned wells are left open, children, animals or even adults can fall into them, causing injury or death.



Farm equipment operators could mistakenly drive over them that could cause equipment damage. To prevent such accidents, all abandoned wells must be properly sealed.

Sealing Abandoned Wells

The basic concept in sealing an abandoned well is restoring the geological conditions that existed before the well was drilled. Therefore, the particular method for sealing a well depends on the type of the well and the local geological features. Effective well sealing needs experience and knowledge of the geology of the well site.

Inappropriate materials and methods can lead to settling, sudden collapse, and continued groundwater contamination.

Well Sealing Procedure

Step 1: measure the dimensions (diameter, depth, and water level) of the well.

Step 2: Remove all obstructing materials (pumps and pipes) from the well.

Step 3: Disinfect the well by adding chlorine to kill the existing microbes.

Step 4: Remove as much casing from the well as possible.



Step 5: Fill the well with plugging materials (clean sand, clay, and bentonite). The exact procedure for plugging will depend on well construction, depth, diameter, and the aquifer type.